

Testimony on HB 6650

AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Co-Chairmen Senator Lebeau, and Representative Perone and esteemed members of Commerce Committee, I appreciate the opportunity afforded by your committee to be able to testify today.

My name is Peter Callan, Principal of Lantern Energy, Chairman of the Home Performance Alliance of CT (HPACT) and member of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC). I am pleased to have the opportunity to comment on House Bill 6650, An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency Programs. I support the commitment to energy efficiency and a positive, long-term clean energy future for our state as illustrated in this bill.

To meet the state's carbon reduction targets, we must improve the efficiency of our buildings (particularly older housing and large commercial buildings), as approximately 40 percent of Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions are generated by heating, cooling and providing electricity to our buildings. The state must address the need for a **steady, fair and permanent funding stream that will allow residents who heat with fuel oil to fully access the state's efficiency programs.**

Oil customers need access to rebates and financing as much as everyone else. We can't meet the State's goal of weatherizing 80% of homes by 2030 without assisting oil heated homes. The establishment of a conservation fee on oil of 3.5 cents/gallon, which would be just \$24.50 a year, for a homeowner using 700 gallons per year, will help solve this issue.

The Commerce Committee hearing of Bill No. 6650 demonstrates your committee's understanding of the connection between energy efficiency and clean energy and their impact on business, jobs and the energy economy. Building a stronger energy efficiency infrastructure will help facilitate our ability to create new jobs and contribute to a growing Connecticut economy.

The State of Connecticut spends millions of tax payer's dollars to entice businesses to come to Connecticut or remain in Connecticut. We hold here within this energy industry the ability to grow exponentially at a fraction of those expenditures. We must nurture this industry and give significant consideration to the policies made and their impact on small business development, employment and the benefits to many spin off industries.

Thank you for your time and consideration
Peter J Callan
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